

# WINTER SUNSHINE

FROM Portland Bill to Start Point the winter sun is shining over Lyme Bay. It lights the grey sea with lanes of gold and lays a deeper green on the hills above the estuary of the River Axe.

This is the winter sunshine that only the English countryside can give. Other countries can provide a more brilliant light and a greater warmth with their winter sunshine. There is snow on the Alps and a brilliant sun. The warm lands of Egypt and the Mediterranean offer a winter sun which is more powerful. But this sun of England's winter is her own sun. Its mellow rays strike along the ploughed fields and give a glow to the autumn bracken. Small yellow blooms are open on the gorse bushes and their eye is turned towards the sun. There are no vivid colours or dazzling landscapes in this bit of Devon, and no mountain tops cupped with snow. It is small and quiet and modest. It is a slice of English countryside in the winter sunshine.

WHAT scenes from history are here in the Axe valley! Down there at Seaton the Romans built Moridunum. Up this little river they pushed into the vast forest which covered the lower slopes of Hawkesdown Hill. On that hill the early peoples of our land entrenched themselves in an immense camp and commanded all this sweeping valley and sea coast. From there they repelled attack from the coombes which thrust themselves up from the one-time port of Axmouth, those deep coombes which today hide little cottages and farmsteads.

## The Pageant of Time

From the broad brow of Hawkesdown begins one of the great pageant roads of our history, the old trackway which leads straight to Avebury—the great metropolis and religious Mecca of our distant ancestors. Along that green trackway came the hunters and marauders, the traders and woolmen, the pilgrims and wayfarers, for many a long century.

There is winter sunshine on that road today. It is a road to look back on and see its people lit by the sunshine of romance and wonder. Across these small lands and upland edges has passed the pageant of time. There are no great Continental armies here or vast migrations from Asia. It is all smaller and quieter. It is English, like this winter sunshine which is lighting the branches of the beech trees, and calling out the goldfinches.

WINTER sunshine is the sunshine of memories. The history of our land and people is one of the great tonics for today. Whenever despair and doubt intrude we should look back at the way we have come. The long pageant of our history is lit by winter sunshine. There are brilliant periods when the high sun of summer shines unclouded, and we bask in its heat and warmth. These are the well-remembered times, the days of high achievement, the days of the signing of Magna Carta, the remaking of England at the Reformation, the long struggle between King and Parliament, the rediscovery of England's soul in 1940. These and many more are lit by the heat of a summer noon.

But winter sunshine is the accompaniment of most of our lives—the grey periods lit by fitful gleams and rare days of sun, those rather indescribable days when nothing much happens. These are the days of winter sunshine, when a gleam is welcome because it

not only lights the road but lights the tasks we are undertaking.

Most of this war period has been a period of winter sunshine. There have been high achievements, but between those peaks are the uplands of hard slogging and the valleys of sorrow and pain. There was brilliant sunshine at El Alamein, in Tunis, in Sicily. But winter sunshine covers much of the years, and many times has the sun been hidden behind dense banks of cloud.

## In These Quiet Fields

Winter sunshine throws up the half-lights of the countryside. From this vantage point, where Devon meets Dorset, the light flows over the tawny top of Musbury Castle, which guards the Axe above the little village. It lights on the old stone walls of Ashe, home of the Drakes, and the Churchill ancestors of the great man who has led Britain in her hour of peril. There in this quiet valley, where the slow events of time pass unhurriedly and often unnoticed, great events have been moulded. In these quiet fields have lived the yeomen and the squires, the merchants and the farmers, who have grown and developed in winter sunshine. The small fields and slow-moving river, the brooks and the meadows, the groups of high-standing beeches and the waving bracken on the heath tops are not fashioned for the grim and giant events of time, but as a friendly, homely countryside where men may live in peace and happiness. It is a winter sunshine country, a true English scene out of which have come English men and women of the true stock.

GREAT events come from the subdued, half-lighted events which go unrecorded. They are the foundation events, the events of the winter sunshine. So watch these days of winter sunshine when no magnetic moment occurs and no great men appear. It is then the wise man notices in the half-lights the beginnings of a man, the foundation of a family, the making of a nation, the creation of a noble movement which will go on to mould the history of a people. Mark the small events and chance conversations in the long pageant of man. They are not recorded in the headlines of history, but they are the stuff of life which lasts on from man to man.

## A Mellow, Friendly Reminder

Here on this hilltop lived the ancient Briton in his camp of turf and clay. It was a cold, cramped life with none of the civilised comforts of today. He lived in the earth, with the wood-smoke of his camp-fire curling up into the winter sky. He drew his water from the primitive well and hunted the boar in the forest of the valley. He was ever on the alert for attack and defence. Yet his deeds are largely unknown. He is one of the men of winter sunshine. Wherever the wood-smoke curls up from the valleys or hilltops we are smelling the same romantic smell. Whenever the primitive acts of self-defence and love of home stir the mind and body we are sharing in the age-long affairs with this man of far-away and long ago. He saw the sun rise and set from the same hills, and he scanned the same everlasting sea.

WINTER sunshine is a mellow, friendly reminder of the life of the small and humble. It opens up the obscure and unsuspected. So whenever we tend to dismiss the little things of life as unimportant, let us take a lesson from human history and look at them as from an English winter hilltop.

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# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



## Spotters' Club

Boys of the Dover Spotters' Club playing the game Sieg Heil, which, in spite of the Teutonic sound of its name, is very popular for it helps them to identify aircraft.

## The Guides Prepare to Help Europe

IT is some time since Girl Guides in this country began to volunteer for relief work in Europe when the occupied lands are freed. Now they have chosen their badge, a green tie, and we know the names of some who will be the leaders in this Guide International Service.

One, for instance, is Miss A. Duke, lecturer in Classics at Reading University, and member of a family of classical scholars. Her knowledge of ancient Greece, its language and geography and ideals, will doubtless be put to good use in present-day Greece, so worthy of its glorious past.

Over 600 young women are in training for this great work of mercy. More than 50 have already passed their tests and now eagerly await orders to move at a moment's notice. The Guides, asked to serve for two years at least, get no pay, but uniform and maintenance will be provided if required. They will have a thrilling time, and the inestimable feeling of doing service which the peoples enslaved by the world's vilest tyranny will not forget.

The sum of £6543 has already been raised for the Guide International Service Fund, which was officially opened on January

24, by Lady Baden-Powell, Chief Guide of the World. As a result of Lady Baden-Powell's appeal, by the next post came a letter from an ex-Guide who had had twelve years' service with the Movement and therefore sent £12—one for every year. She wished to be among the first to answer the appeal. She was—the very first!

This fund is one of the reasons why Brownies and Guides offer to do odd jobs for householders, gardeners, farmers, and others. Recently some very small Guides knocked on a front door and confronted a startled householder with the following statement: "Well, good afternoon. Is there anything we can do for you? Any odd jobs, I mean. We'll do anything you like inside or outside the house—cleaning silver, bicycles, prams, gathering wood, or weeding. We're earning money for the starving children in Europe." That afternoon they raised eight and sixpence—"... and we earned it, Captain!" they reported with delight. They were less jubilant, however, about the house where they were given sweets as payment—"we don't want sweets—it's the children in Poland we're working for," they declared.



## The Unity of the British Commonwealth

THE part they played in the last war led to the complete self-government of each and every Dominion, with liberty to join their Motherland in a future conflict or to remain neutral. How will the present war affect these relations?

Each Dominion has become even more self-reliant, especially in matters of defence, and had not the world of which each forms a part become so much relatively smaller, all would probably be well. But for both peace and defence against aggression the smaller or thinly-peopled countries of the world will be powerless individually.

Consequently we find statesmen discussing the possibilities of a Federated Europe, a Pan-American League, and so on. The interdependence of the states in such groups has its counterpart in the British Commonwealth, all of whose members, with one exception, united to resist the Nazi menace.

### World Affairs

In recent utterances General Smuts, Mr Curtin, and Mr Peter Fraser, Mr S. M. Bruce and others have been raising the questions that will come speedily up for solution with the peace. They recognise that war and peace will in future be world matters, and that that solidarity on the part of the Commonwealth which chose the better way and stood alone for a while against evil must be maintained. An even greater unity seems to be required and the prime ministers of the Commonwealth will soon be meeting together to discuss how to make this practicable. Lord Halifax was thinking of these problems when he spoke at Toronto recently.

Lord Halifax urged that the British Commonwealth of Nations should have a common foreign policy, and pleaded that in all matters of defence, economic policy, colonial administration, and communications which were of interest to the whole Empire, complete unity of thought and action should be achieved. Although the 1933 Statute of Westminster had guaranteed complete self-government to the Dominions, and equal status with Britain, it had not settled vital questions of foreign policy and defence.

## The Crystal Palace of Tomorrow

WHEN the Crystal Palace went up in flames in 1936 all South London watched the spectacle with awe, and all their countrymen heard the news with a tugging at their hearts. For there was only one Crystal Palace, and it had a unique place in the affections of the English people.

That great glasshouse—that mammoth conservatory—was an architectural nightmare to many folk, but to millions of others it was a pleasant dream. The mere sight of those twin towers on high could set them dreaming of happy days gone by—of Handel Festivals, of Cup Finals, of Circuses, of Fireworks, and other things of joy.

Yes, the old Crystal Palace had a warm corner in all our hearts; and therefore we all

Lord Halifax declared that it would be an immeasurable gain if, on vital issues, they could achieve a common foreign policy, expressed not by a single voice, but by the unison of many.

When this war came the Dominions responded without hesitation to the call of the Motherland, just as they had done in 1914, but, he added, Every-time there is a crisis in international affairs the Dominions are faced with the same inexorable dilemma—confirming a policy which they had had only a partial share in framing, or standing aside and seeing the unity of the Commonwealth broken.

If Britain was to uphold her world-wide burdens and commitments in peace, she needed the same unstinted moral and actual support that has sustained her in this war.

Lord Halifax ended on a stirring note of appeal that not Great Britain only, but the British Commonwealth and Empire must be the fourth Power in that group (U.S., Russia, and China), on which, under Providence, the peace of the world will henceforth depend.

### Sharing the Burden

As Mr S. M. Bruce said recently: The United Kingdom must continue to take the lead; she must, however, recognise the Dominions freely as equals, and afford them full opportunity in the framing of policies and of consultation in carrying them out.

On their part, the Dominions must be prepared to take their full share in the framing and carrying out of policies of common interest and concern. They must also be prepared to shoulder a greater part of the provision of adequate defence, for too great a share of it was borne by the United Kingdom in the days before this war.

There is indeed much constructive work still to be done for the perfection of the British Commonwealth of Free but Interdependent Dominions.

welcome the renewed interest in the proposals that on its ashes a new Crystal Palace will arise. The plans include a vast amphitheatre for festivals, circuses, and sporting tournaments; a concert hall, a theatre, a dance hall, and exhibition halls, all with flat roofs to make ideal roof gardens; a bandstand, flower gardens, arcades and arbours, a swimming pool, ice rink, and other games' centres; and more than ample accommodation for various youth movements.

It is an ambitious plan, but it is a fitting one for so glorious a site, and one which belongs to the nation. We trust that when the new buildings arise, we shall see a Crystal Palace worthy of the people; yesterday's dream and today's plan must be tomorrow's vision, fair to behold.

## LITTLE NEWS REELS

AMERICA is producing 25 times as much helium, the non-inflammable gas used in naval blimps, as in 1941.

It is expected that by the end of this year 6 million American troops will be serving overseas.

Dairy farmers are to receive bonuses of 1½d a gallon for the first 400 gallons of milk produced in each winter month and 1d a gallon for the first 500 in each summer month.

Liberia, the West African Negro Republic, has declared war on Germany and Japan, being the 35th country to join the United Nations.

Miss Mary Agnes Craig McGeachy, a Canadian, has been appointed chief of the Welfare division of UNRRA.

The inland money order limit has been raised from £40 to £50.

The Supreme Soviet has decided to give a more complete form of self-government to the 16 Republics of the Union.

Snow has fallen in Palestine for the third winter in succession.

UNDER the British Commonwealth Air Training plan over 50,000 air crews have been trained in Canada.

Argentina is sending 50,000 more tons of wheat to Greece.

A Midlands factory engaged in extracting vital war materials from household salvaged bones recently received the skeletons of two elephants, a lion, a kangaroo, and an ostrich.

Travellers in Northern Peru have discovered a mountain covered with cinchona trees whose bark, from which quinine is obtained, is estimated at 10,000 tons.

At a United States air station in Britain seven medals were pinned on Sergeant O. R. Germann for gallant deeds in the air.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union, which admitted women to its membership in 1942, has given £1000 to Manor House Hospital to name a bed in memory of Mrs Beatrice Webb.

### Youth News Reel

HINDU, Mohammedan, and Christian Scouts recently spent a week-end camp together for the first time at Meerut.

5000 people turned out to see a Scout Camp Fire during a recent visit by Scouts of Gambia (West Africa) to the French Sudan, where they spent an enjoyable time camping with foreign Scouts.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Alderman G. H. Allridge, has been a Boys Brigade officer for the past 30 years—for 20 with the 36th Birmingham as captain—and now he is the active Company President.

On the fourth birthday of the ATC Air Marshal Sir Leslie Gossage succeeded Mr W. W. Wakefield as its director.

Among the Old Boys of the Boys Brigade to gain honours for gallantry on active service are Sergeant H. Sparks, DFM, formerly of the 110th London Company; Flying Officer Reginald McCadden, DFC, of the 1st Belfast Company; and Leading Seaman Frederick Phillips, DSM, of the 76th London Company.

The Marine Society has decided to award six bursaries each month to Sea Cadets to the Outward Bound Sea School at Aberdovey.

## This Africa Never Lost Faith in France

GENERAL DE GAULLE has been visiting Brazzaville, capital of French Equatorial Africa, where a fervent welcome has long awaited him. For it was here that the flame of loyalty and patriotism blazed out most splendidly when Metropolitan France fell, and it was from here that the assurance came to De Gaulle in London that though the French colonies in North and West Africa might follow Vichy in submission to Hitler, there was one part at least of French Africa where honour held the field.

French Equatorial Africa consists of four divisions: Gaboon, Middle Congo, Ubanghi-Shari, and Chad, with a total population of three and a half millions and an area nearly five times the size of France itself. We all know the story of M. Eboué, the wise and gallant black Governor of Chad, who declared for De Gaulle at once, despite the threats of M. Boisson at Dakar. But we do not know sufficient about more than one local king in this region, who also kept faith and brought arms and aid at once to the stricken Republic for whom they had fought in the last war.

That story will be told in full one day. Meanwhile, these remote parts of the once-dark Continent, the scene of some of Stanley's most romantic journeys, are now almost a Clapham Junction of Allied military traffic, by air, land, and water. The great Congo River forms the border of the French and Belgian Congo, and their respective capitals, Brazzaville and Léopoldville, lie almost opposite each other, close to the spreading waters of the Stanley Pool. Léopoldville, with a population of 42,000 is ten times as populous as Brazzaville, but Brazzaville has been steadily developing, and the war has speeded up its progress immensely.

Strange as it may seem, the Congo begins by being navigable only as far as Matadi, 83 miles

inland, and thence is interrupted by so many rapids and falls that the big sea-going steamers unload their cargoes and transship them to a railroad 250 miles in length, which carries them to Léopoldville. Thereafter the mighty river becomes navigable again for 1050 miles, right up to Stanley Falls in the heart of Africa. A new French railway on their side of the Congo, running from the Atlantic port of Pointe-Noire to Brazzaville, a distance of 318 miles, was completed in 1930, and a river port is under construction at the capital.

The Belgians have developed their Congo possessions far more richly than the French, but there is no reason why the French colony should not now follow the example of its bigger neighbour, for the resources of French Equatorial Africa are still quite undeveloped. The French have not forgotten the brave pioneer work of Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza, the creator and first governor of the colony, a famous explorer and administrator.

The voice of freedom came to France from Radio Brazzaville when Radio Paris was perforce the Voice of Hitler. Because of Brazzaville, of the brave Eboué, and the gallant General Leclerc at Fort Lamy, capital of Chad, and of thousands of true French patriots, white and black, who never lost faith, France will rise again in the heart of Africa as in Europe.

## Greenwich Observatory to Move

As Smith Minor knows, the position of any place on the map is described by its relation to lines drawn on the map of the world, the lines of latitude being drawn parallel with the equator, while the lines of longitude are drawn east or west of a prime meridian, or imaginary line drawn from the North Pole to the South Pole and passing through Greenwich Observatory, near London. Places are described as being so many degrees North or South of the Equator and East or West of the Greenwich line.

The better side of Charles II gave him a great interest in science, and it was he who founded the famous observatory on a hill in Greenwich Park. He handed it to Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, in 1676. It is also from this observatory that what is called Greenwich Mean Time is reckoned. Many of the good citizens of Greenwich climb Observatory Hill regularly every Sunday to correct their watches on this best possible authority. On the observatory roof a ball drops on a spindle at a given time, that all may know what the proper Greenwich Time is.

Many things have happened since the days of Charles II, and a host of scientific appliances have been devised.

These changes have worked badly for the old observatory, and some years ago it became necessary to move the magnetic observations to a more suitable site in Surrey. Now electrical interference has become so serious that it has become advisable to remove many more of the activities.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones, the Astronomer Royal, says that the Admiralty has approved the necessary changes, subject to the Royal consent. Wherever it is situated no doubt it will still be Greenwich Observatory.

### AFFORESTATION

The Forestry Commissioners have been discussing the future of woodlands with representatives of landowners. The object of the Commissioners is to encourage the production of timber in Britain, and they recommend that owners of woodlands who dedicate their land to afforestation should be assisted by the State, while those who do not make their dedication in a given time would have these lands acquired by the State.

It is suggested that the State assistance will take the form of a planting grant of £7 10s an acre for every acre planted or replanted; loans to carry out agreed schemes for planting; and maintenance grants.



## The Rescued to the Rescue

A FEW months before war broke out the CN made an appeal for £100 to rescue two boys in Vienna from the grip of the Nazi Terror. They were German-born boys, but they were Jews, and they had written to the Editor, "For Heaven's sake help us, and enable us to become decent and useful."

Arthur Mee, who had a corner in his heart for every child whatever his race or religion, in making his appeal, wrote: "They are desperate in a pitiless land, with no sun shining for them, no hope unless we send it to them." And very soon the money came in, and, through the Lord Baldwin Fund, enabled these boys to make a start in our land of freedom.

Now, in the fifth year of our

war against their persecutors, comes news of one of these exiles. From a Somerset farm he writes to us: "It has always been my wish to be able to join the British Forces, and now my wish has come true. I am joining up next month, and I should like to thank all those CN readers who helped me to come across."

We welcome this news from one whose name must not be revealed until the mask of the Nazi Beast is finally removed from his tortured homeland; and we can well understand his thrill of pride that he is now joining the ranks of that valiant army which will help to liberate his homeland—very soon. The sun is shining for him now.



Bubbles in the Bath

## LOOKING AHEAD

IN its recent Looking Ahead booklet the Conservative Sub-Committee on Education has followed up its reports, Educational Aims and Plan for Youth, with a valuable study of the Statutory Educational System as it affects both the young and the old.

This contains both general observations and particular comments on the new Educational Bill with which the Committee are in broad agreement, declaring it to be a great improvement on the White Paper.

They stress the importance of securing an adequate supply of teachers, by making plans now for the early demobilisation of potential as well as of trained teachers; and they advocate the forming now of the nucleus of a special training centre where 100 men and women can be trained to instruct future teachers in continuation schools.

The booklet has many good ideas, and educationists of all ages and groups should read and re-read it. It costs 3d and can be obtained from the Conservative Organisation at 24 Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

## THE NAVY PAYS A DEBT

During Warship Week two years ago the towns of New Romney and Lydd combined with Romney Marsh Rural District to pay for one of the "little ships" of the Royal Navy, and the ship HMS Romney was adopted by them.

Recently a consignment of oranges, tangerines, lemons, and bananas was received, large enough for every schoolchild in the three districts to receive a share. It had come from the crew of their "little ship."

## WORKERS' SCHOOLTIME

Nearly 500 employees of the three Flint factories of Court-auld's, the rayon manufacturers, have registered as students of the first young people's college established in Wales. It is at Flint Central School and is under the authority of the Flintshire Education Committee.

The ages of the students range from 14 to 18, and they attend the school at the rate of a hundred a day from Monday to Friday inclusive. Wages covering the time they spend at school are paid by the firm, and if they live outside Flint they are granted a proportion of their travelling expenses.

## A NEW GOLDEN ARROW

The largest mobile wireless outfit in the world has been called the Golden Arrow, after the famous London to Paris boat train.

One of these is at Allied Headquarters in Italy, and it and others send information from the battlefronts direct to the War Office. Each vehicle carries a crew of 22 operators, mechanics, and engineers—and a cook. Seventy-foot acrias, carried in sections, form part of the equipment.

## MORE LONDON SCHOOL MEALS

London County Council Education costs are to rise in the coming financial year to £13,339,000, as compared with £12,431,000 for 1943-44. School meals alone are to cost London £1,446,000, more than double the present year's figure of £700,250. This extra cost is due to the steady increase in the number of children's meals provided. At present there are 70,000 such meals daily, but the figure is expected to rise to 100,000.

There is also, the CN is glad to note, a very substantial increase in the amount to be spent on play centres for children of women war workers and on wartime nurseries.

## OUR ISLAND AIRCRAFT CARRIER

This country has spent £600,000,000 on the construction of airfields in its war effort.

The extraordinary growth of air warfare may be gathered from the fact that before the last Great War Britain had only seven airfields, but even by the armistice of 1918 the number had grown to 300 airfields or landing grounds. By 1938, the year before the present war began, our Service airfields alone numbered over 100. During this war airfields have increased so greatly that they have almost reached the limit of suitable area. The increases in the size of aircraft, with great carrying capacity and high landing speeds, has made it necessary to use bigger bases. Also the arrival of growing numbers of United States battle planes, has made necessary the building of hundreds of big new airfields. The Air Minister's map of the airfields of Britain is so crowded that it gives the impression that our island is one vast airfield.

The introduction of heavy bombers has made it necessary to have three long runways on each aerodrome.

Our airfields now cover an area of more than 250,000 acres.

## A Blow For the Weevils

THE ravages of the boll weevil in the cotton-growing country of the U.S. have challenged the ingenuity of inventors and chemists for many years past. All kinds of poisons and mechanical methods have been used, with varying degrees of success, but the boll weevil remains a menace to the crops.

Now we hear of a simple contrivance which is said to be very effective; and, as in the case of other simple inventions, we wonder why nobody thought of it before!

The machine, invented by an 83-year-old retired cotton-planter, Alex Nisbet of Texas, consists of a tractor fitted with a powerful fan on the front blowing strong

currents of air cut of a pair of tubes. The tubes are so arranged that they are directed at either side of the cotton plants as the tractor moves along the rows, and the blasts of air blow the boll weevil off the plants, down a funnel, and straight into a sack. Perhaps the inventor thought of a vacuum-cleaner in reverse!

Naturally enough, the machine does not discriminate, so that leaf worms and other insect pests are bagged with the weevils. In this way many sacks of insects can speedily be collected from each acre of cotton.

Mr Nisbet builds the apparatus himself in his own workshop, and he has already sold some of the blowers to cotton farmers.

## ON THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

The wild Shetland island of Foula, thought to have been the Ultima Thule of the Ancients, and made famous by the film The Edge of the World, is once again in the news.

For 44 days this tiny island, with a community of about 200 souls, had been cut off from the mainland by stormy weather, the longest period for 30 years. Then a large motor-boat entered her harbour with 5 tons of food and the much-overdue Christmas mail.

## TODDLERS' COVE

Last summer the children of Canterbury, barred from trips to the seaside, were given many hours by "Toddlers' Cove," a stretch of the River Stour which was converted into an inland "beach" for the city's Holidays at Home. A paddling pool and a sandpit were made in one of Canterbury's parks, near the swimming baths, and it was generally acknowledged that Toddlers' Cove was an outstanding feature of the wartime holidays.

Now the City Council have decided to extend and improve the scheme at a cost of nearly £650. The sandpit and pool will be made larger, shelters will be provided, and everything will be done to give Canterbury's children happy and health-giving fun.

## SAVING FUEL FOR FREEDOM

THE expression "black diamonds" is centuries old, but never was it more true of coal than it is today, when every lump saved means more war equipment for our men at the battle-fronts. Just how much each one of us can do for victory, by economising in our fuel consumption, which, of course, includes gas and electricity, is graphically revealed in an exhibition in Charing Cross Underground Station.

Among the exhibits are guns, a giant airscrew, and an AA predictor, which requires 12 tons of coal to manufacture. Perhaps the most startling fact is that for every ton of bombs 10 tons of coal are needed, which means 20,000 tons of coal for a 2000-ton raid on Germany. We are told that only five pounds of coal or its equivalent in gas or electricity, saved by one household each day, would mean to our troops 2000 more bullets, three more sten guns, two more 25-pounder shells, and 10 more rifles.

By saving fuel, therefore, each one of us is saving the lives of our fighting men, and bringing victory nearer.

## SPARE THE WILD FLOWERS

The Society for the Protection of Wild Flowers and Plants has made an earnest appeal to the public to refrain from collecting rarer plants, and also to deny themselves the pleasure of picking quantities of flowers, either for charity or for decorations.

The Society points out that so much pastureland has been ploughed up, and so much more devastated for necessary military purposes, that our beautiful wild flowers are much reduced in numbers. Only a policy of strict self-denial can help to preserve what is left.

## THE HEALTH OF AN ISLAND

Half a million pounds is to be spent this year on a health campaign in Trinidad, nearly a pound per head of population. The money will be devoted to new health centres, new specialists for hospitals, higher wages for nurses, and the appointment of a hygiene officer for schools. The fight against disease will go on vigorously all over the island, and will be typical of the concern for health now manifested everywhere in the Empire.



Family Group—Mother Labrador and Her Pups



## The EDITOR'S TABLE

### What's In a Name?

IN the third Looking Ahead report issued by the Conservative Committee on Education, criticism is passed on the title Young People's Colleges used in the New Education Bill. It points out that boys and girls do not like the term Young People, for "it has a sadly patronising, parsonical, pedagogic ring."

We notice that the Committee frequently refer to "Youngsters," and we wonder what will be said about this.

The C.N. thinks that it is not any particular name that growing boys and girls resent, but the suggestion of any kind of patronage and superiority on the part of their elders. It is, in fact, their good and natural ambition to attain due recognition of their maturing personalities at the earliest possible moment.

### Senseless Sabotage

THERE seems to have been a widespread increase of senseless destruction, and this appears to have affected our railways in particular.

The Ministry of War Transport gave the following figures in Parliament showing how far railway vandalism went in 1943: 20,000 window straps destroyed or stolen. Nearly 14,000 seats damaged and many of the removable cushions stolen. 13,000 luggage racks made useless. 43,000 blinds destroyed, removed, or stolen. Over 25,000 carriage windows smashed.

The vast majority of the people responsible for this petty pilfering and wanton destruction would be shocked if they were called saboteurs; but the formidable sum of their misdeeds proves that the term is not too strong.

### JUST AN IDEA

There's one certain tonic for most ills. It costs nothing, and you can take it any number of times a day without a prescription. It is called Laughter.

## EARNING AND LEARNING

THE C.N. has always disapproved of the law which permits schoolchildren to work for wages before and after school hours. It fully supports, therefore, Mr. J. Hallsworth, of Manchester, in his recent appeal to the Government to afford in the New Education Bill full protection to children against the double burden of learning and earning.

As regards children below the school-leaving age, the present law permits, subject to certain restrictions and conditions, children over 12 to be employed outside school hours on school days, on Saturdays and Sundays, and during school holidays in various kinds of non-industrial employment and in agriculture or horticulture.

LOCAL authorities may pass by-laws authorising children under 12 to be employed by their parents or guardians in light agricultural or horticultural work. The harmful effects—educational and physical—of this double burden of learning and earning upon children have been reported upon—officially and unofficially—from time to time during the last 40 years; and although the substance of the present law, passed in 1921 and 1933, is an advance upon the Employment of Children Act of 1903, it still allows

a disgraceful exploitation of young life in the service of the community.

An important point to be stressed is that it is usually the children of poor parents who are engaged in out-of-school employment, and not those of economically better placed parents. Thus there is in actual practice a discrimination against a particular class of children, and this will continue until the law prohibits entirely employment for all children below school-leaving age.

WE know that at the end of 1937 (the last year for which figures are available) more than 76,000 schoolchildren between 12 and 14 were in part-time employment in England and Wales, and that, in addition, about 2500 children under 12 years of age were employed by their parents or guardians in light agricultural or horticultural work.

It is indeed true that the number of children employed outside school hours at the present time greatly exceeds the 1937 figure, for wartime conditions have demanded the help of children on the land.

THE C.N. would add that including time spent at school many a child is working more hours a week than his father—a paradoxical situation, surely.

### YOUTH AND DRINK

A WELL-KNOWN temperance worker has recently made a very strong appeal for the appointment of a control board, as in the last war, to check alcohol consumption. It has been proposed on the other hand that there should be a public appeal, under the authority of the Government, for voluntary wartime restraint, particularly directed to the factor of "treating." Persuasion is always better than compulsion, and we hold that a sustained authoritative appeal to both adults and youths would be as satisfactory as a "no treating" order.

Something must certainly be done, and done quickly, before the already too apparent results lead to further moral decline.

### A Fourth Term?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT's political party, the Democrats, have carried a resolution which in effect begs him to stand again as their presidential candidate.

The President himself has made no definite statement on the subject, but he will probably accept this unprecedented honour.

It is an extraordinary tribute to Mr Roosevelt's character and courage that he has carried his people with him through a period of such difficulty in a country where domestic politics are subject to such rapid changes.

### A Gift to Baghdad

THE Mayor of Baghdad will soon be wearing a golden chain made by British craftsmen, and presented by the British Government.

When, most fittingly, the Lord Mayor of London presented the chain, with its badge of office, to the Iraq Minister, he said that when peace was restored we could anticipate a vast and valuable increase in personal contacts between Baghdad and London. And the Iraq Minister, in replying, said that in the past Baghdad was known in all the East as Dar el Salam, Capital of the Peace, and that every time the Mayor wore the chain he would remember that Baghdad and Iraq had a mighty sister in the West to help her build a great and prosperous peace.

May this chain prove a symbol of enduring links between East and West; may this golden chain herald a golden age!



### Chiefs in Conference

Chief Awujale of Ijebu Ode, the Alake of Abeokuta, and the Oni of Ife in conversation outside the Mapo Hall at Ibadan, where the Chiefs of the Western Provinces of Nigeria were in conference not long ago.

## Rewards For Being Polite

POLITE children are to be rewarded at Callington down in Cornwall, where a movement is being launched to encourage boys and girls to be even more mannerly, well-behaved, and kind.

Conscious that some children are not always as well-behaved and courteous as they might be, grown-ups are asking: "Do boys and girls treat their parents and aged folk with the same respect as their schoolteacher? Does a boy raise his cap when he meets a lady? Does he drink out of the saucer or put the knife in his mouth at the table? Does he offer his seat to a girl in a crowded bus?"

Hence then the lead taken by this little market town to encourage what is known as old-world courtesy, gentleness, quiet speech, consideration for others, and so on. A prize fund has

been started, and awards will be made at the end of the year. Other towns and villages may perhaps follow the lead, and thus help to eliminate unruly behaviour and hooliganism.

This Cornish venture recalls a charming custom in the neighbouring county of Devon. Every year at Holsworthy a Pretty Maid is rewarded with £2 10s. Not only must she be favoured with good looks, but be most generally esteemed, and 'noted' for quietness and attendance at church. The gift is made possible by the will of an old bachelor clergyman, the Revd Thomas Meyrick, who left funds for investment and stipulated that the interest should be given to the girl who conformed to the conditions.

The clergyman died 103 years ago, and a Pretty Maid has been found every year since!

## THE DUTCH DOLL'S HOUSE

MANY gifts, rich, rare, and costly, go to the Red Cross Sales; but not often does a doll's house come their way. Nevertheless, a doll's house was among recent anonymous gifts to this great cause. Not an ordinary doll's house, of course (if ever a doll's house can be ordinary); but a sumptuous affair built in a carved oak cabinet, and worthy to grace the nursery of a princess.

Made in Holland over two centuries ago, it was sent to this country for a child described as "a very spoilt little girl," and has belonged to the same family ever since.

The cabinet has two rows of folding doors, the lower ones opening to reveal the mistress of the house seated in her kitchen,

monarch of all she surveys, including a red lacquer grandfather clock. In the top section is contained another luxurious domain, with bedroom above and drawing-room below, complete with handsome mantelpiece and two delightful alabaster tables laid for tea.

Well, the lucky little lady who played with this doll's house two hundred years ago and more certainly took great care of her treasure; and so did her successors to this "desirable freehold residence, suitably furnished, and near to Town." And we doubt not that soon another little lady will find as much delight in it, and will not mind very much if she, in turn, is affectionately referred to as "a very spoilt little girl."

## Under the Editor's Table

SOME people do not like cheese dishes. Peter Puck Wants to Know Prefer china ones.

THERE will be no limit to the number of buttons a woman may have on her dress. Except of course the size of the dress.

A MAN says he is fond of wearing a felt hat. Likes the feel of it.

SOME people like to observe the letter of the law. Provided somebody sends it to them.



CERTAIN kinds of onions are easier to grow than others. Easier than uncertain kinds.

IN good neighbourliness the countryman leaves the city dweller far behind. It would be more neighbourly to take him along.

MOST seaside resorts have a floating population. Especially at high tide.

CHANGE cannot legally be demanded for a £5 note. So take note.

If manicurists are paid on the nail



## A Saint Down Whitechapel Way

CLEMENCEAU, that worldly French genius who so greatly helped to win the last war, once said that one of the three really great Englishmen he had met was Samuel Augustus Barnett. To his own countrymen he was plain Canon Barnett, or Barnett of Toynbee Hall. Born on February 8, 100 years ago, Barnett's achievements were amazing, his influence unmatched; and his work, revolutionary in its day, is now part of our social system.

A native of Bristol, Barnett might have stepped out of a play. His father made a fortune as the inventor of iron bedsteads, and sent his elder son, Samuel, to Oxford to study for the Church under a man notorious for his immovable political views. The pupil was a colour-blind, untidy youth, who mitigated the rigours of study by athletics. Having taken his degree, he earned sufficient by teaching for a tour in America, which, he said, "knocked all the Toryism out of him."

A West End curacy brought him in touch with distinguished social reformers, and at an early age Barnett vowed himself to the service of the poor. When 27 he had the happiness of meeting Henrietta Rowland, a beautiful girl, with wealth and culture, who, seven years his junior, was already devoted to work in the slums.

A more unromantic-looking young man than Samuel Barnett she had never met, for he was, already prematurely bald, had a great shaggy beard, dressed vilely, and never wore a hat that fitted. Nevertheless, after long deliberation, she married him, and never was there a lovelier story of mutual affection and devotion than the forty years of married life that followed.

They went straight to Whitechapel, to the little vicarage of St Jude's, which became the centre of their beneficent labours. Victims of drink, poverty, squalor, and vice, nearly all their parishioners had criminal records, and the efforts of these two clear-eyed crusaders form a shining page in London's story of reform. The

things done are ascribed to Barnett, but his incomparable wife was full partner in all.

They taught children in noisome cellars; they lured parents by song and story to Sunday evening services; they gave their money, and they gave unremitting service; they swept away insanitary hovels; they instituted the famous Children's Country Holiday Fund. Greater wonder still, Barnett, blind to colour, was taught by his talented wife to understand and appreciate pictures whose tints were but a blur to him, and he opened the Whitechapel Art Gallery, which, without a picture of its own, won fame by its exhibitions of loan pictures.

Hampstead Garden Suburb took the Barnetts creatively afieid, but their abiding glory was Toynbee Hall, where men destined to become famous arrived from the Universities to live and labour for the benefit of Whitechapel. Barnett had a mysterious sense of direction: without compass or stars to guide he could find his way unerringly. A similar sense appeared to guide him through the tangled paths of human misery.

He was a practical saint. His work, born of the heart, was directed by the clear brain of a spiritual strategist, and all kindly people remain thankful for his lead and teaching. Made a canon and sub-dean of Westminster Abbey, he yet cherished Whitechapel to the end, and when, in 1913, he died at Hove, it was at his beloved St. Jude's that his funeral service was held. The world has not often seen such a man as Samuel Barnett.

## The Epic of the Tynedale

HIS Majesty's destroyers, whose fighting record is unsurpassed by that of any other type of warship in the Royal Navy, were long ago nicknamed the "maids of all work"; yet a destroyer of the Hunt class has made an entirely original addition to their long list of achievements. She is the Tynedale, now reported lost, and the first major warship to be credited with the aerial defence of an English city.

In her three years at sea the Tynedale forged a thrilling history of her own.

Joining the Home Fleet in December 1940 when Britain

was in desperate need of destroyers, she was soon in action against German submarines, E-boats and aeroplanes escorting merchant ships through the Channel. For three nights during the first blitz of Portsmouth her guns fought the enemy bombers. Then she sailed to Plymouth in time to take part in that city's defence the very next night. While a raid was still in progress she was ordered to sea, and had just left the dock when a stick of bombs hit her berth. In March 1942 she destroyed a U-boat in the gallant action of St Nazaire, and was later in the Mediterranean.

## OUR EXPERT HOUSING ADVISERS

WE may hope to see our finest architectural talent given to the design and equipment of houses for the people, for the Panel of Experts set up by the Minister of Works to advise him has been nominated by the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects. They will deal with the design and planning of the Ministry's demonstration and experimental houses.

The Ministry also retained the services of a consultant in Mr

Arthur Kenyon, a former president of the Architectural Association, who is the architect of Welwyn Garden City. Mr Kenyon favours the provision of wash-basins in every bedroom, and he would eliminate fireplaces wherever possible to save space, and substitute electric or gas fires. Mr L. H. Kay, a member of the Panel, is Liverpool's city architect, and a strong advocate of labour-saving appliances in all homes.

## CARRY ON

### Prayers For the Day MORNING

LORD, as I start this busy day  
With many duties on my way,  
I look to Thee and hear Thee say,  
"One step, one step at a time."

### NOON

At noon with toil my senses reel,  
To fret and fume I tempted feel;  
Now on my heart Thy message seal,  
"One step, one step at a time."

### NIGHT

As down to sleep I lie this night,  
I pray Thee, Lord, for heavenly light  
That I may ever walk aright  
One step, one step at a time.

David Effaye

### THE CURE FOR PREJUDICE

EVERYONE is forward to complain of the prejudices that mislead other men or parties, as if he were free, and had none of his own. This being objected on all sides, it is agreed that it is a fault and a hindrance to knowledge. What, now, is the cure? No other but this—that every man should let alone others' prejudices, and examine his own. Nobody is convinced of his by the accusation of another: he recriminates by the same rule, and is clear. The only way to remove this great cause of ignorance and error out of the world is for everyone impartially to examine himself.

John Locke

### London Town

"FLOWER of Cities Alle,"  
Gravely majestic;  
Steadfast, whate'er befall,  
London.  
Widespread thy hills between,  
Bowered in leafy green;  
Strong, with a strength unseen,  
London.  
Ancient, yet ever young,  
Singing thy deathless song,  
Freedom's immortal tongue.  
London. Leopold Spero

### HELPING HUMANITY

WE help or hinder, all of us.  
We help, one by one, by obeying the silent ruler of all our lives, the conscience enthroned within us all; but we help together and multiply our power by joining that brotherhood which seeks to turn the streams of right and truth and honour into a mighty river, rushing to the ocean of universal peace.

Arthur Mee

### To Raise Us All

I HOLD that these great struggles, this crucifixion of ourselves, this valley of darkness and shadow to some of the sick, are necessary to raise us all from the death of sentimental dawdling and money-making, and mean routine, to the life of magnanimous self-denial and heroic striving for others.

Florence Nightingale, in 1885

## Speaking and Writing

HOWEVER much we may admire the orator's occasional bursts of eloquence, the noblest written words are commonly as far behind or above the fleeting spoken language as the firmament with its stars is behind the clouds. There are the stars, and they who can may read them. The astronomers forever comment on and observe them. They are not exhalations like our daily colloquies and vaporous breath.

What is called eloquence in the

forum is commonly found to be rhetoric in study. The orator yields to the inspiration of a transient occasion, and speaks to the mob before him, to those who can hear him; but the writer, whose more equable life is his occasion, and who would be distracted by the event and the crowd which inspire the orator, speaks to the intellect and heart of mankind, to all in any age who can understand him.

Thoreau

## WE HAVE BEEN FRIENDS

WE have been friends together,  
In sunshine and in shade,  
Since first beneath the chestnut trees  
In infancy we played.  
But coldness dwells within thy heart,  
A cloud is on thy brow;  
We have been friends together:  
Shall a light word part us now?

We have been gay together;  
We have laughed at little jests;  
For the fount of hope was gushing  
Warm and joyous in our breasts.

But laughter now hath fled thy lip,  
And sullen glooms thy brow;  
We have been gay together:  
Shall a light word part us now?

We have been sad together;  
We have wept with bitter tears,  
O'er the grass-grown graves where slumbered  
The hopes of early years.  
The voices which are silent there  
Would bid thee clear thy brow;  
We have been sad together:  
O, what shall part us now?

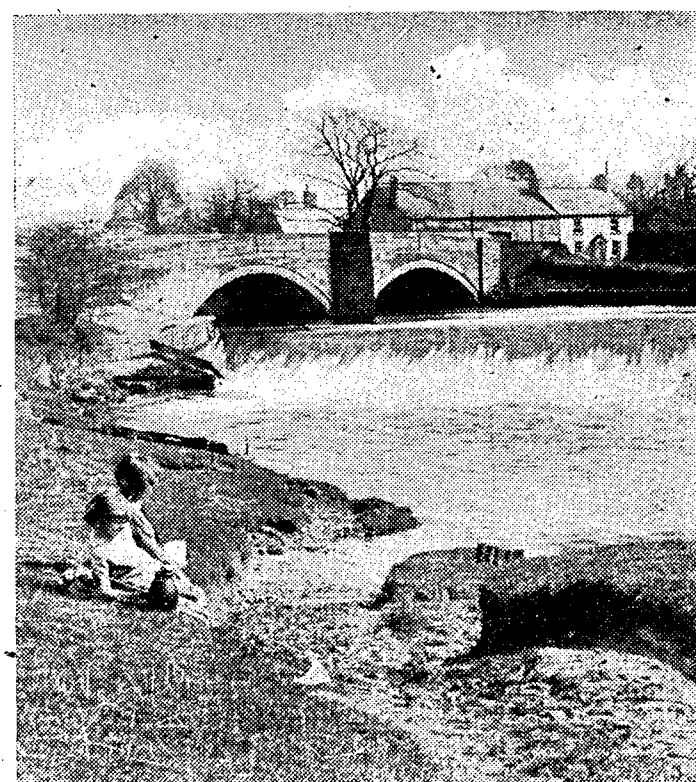
Caroline Norton

## The Need For Good-nature

MAN is subject to innumerable pains and sorrow by the very condition of humanity, and yet, as if Nature had not sown evils enough in life, we are continually adding grief to grief, and aggravating the common calamity by our cruel treatment of one another. Every man's natural weight of afflictions is still made more heavy by the envy, malice, treachery, or injustice of his neighbour. At the same time that the storm beats upon the

whole species, we are falling foul upon one another.

Half the misery of human life might be extinguished, would men alleviate the general curse they lie under, by mutual offices of compassion, benevolence, and humanity. There is nothing, therefore, which we ought more to encourage in ourselves and others, than that disposition of mind which, in our language, goes under the title of good-nature. Joseph Addison



THIS ENGLAND

A sunny day by the weir at Garstang, Lancashire



## Is the Magnet a Dynamo?

MOST of us have seen the experiment of sprinkling iron filings on a sheet of paper laid over the poles of a magnet. The iron filings arrange themselves along beautifully curved "lines of force" between the two poles. Hitherto, however, it has never been thought that there was any passage of a magnetic current from one pole to the other.

Yet if copper wires be attached to the poles of an electric battery (such as a No 8 battery) and the free ends dipped into acidulated water, the water will be decomposed into hydrogen and oxygen, hydrogen being liberated at one pole and oxygen at the other, and an electric current will flow through the water from one pole to the other.

Now comes the astonishing news from America that a current of magnetism (not electricity) flows from one pole of a magnet to the other if it is immersed in any conducting liquid—that if a magnet is placed under water oxygen gas is set free at one pole, hydrogen at the other—water being, of course, a combination of these two elementary substances. It appears that the water is not completely separated into pure hydrogen and oxygen, but that a greater proportion of oxygen is set free at the North pole.

Half a century ago it was known that liquid oxygen was magnetic, and it used to be facetiously suggested by chemistry professors that the oxygen could be extracted from a mixture of liquefied hydrogen and oxygen by pulling out the latter with a magnet, leaving the hydrogen behind!

Professor Felix Ehrenhaft, a Viennese scientist working in Columbia University, America,

has, it would seem, pulled off this dream in a far simpler manner, and believes that a magnet acts like a little dynamo and actually creates a magnetic current. When an electric current is passed through conductive water there is a constant stream of positively electrified hydrogen ions travelling towards the negative pole, and a similar stream of negatively electrified oxygen ions travelling in the opposite direction towards the positive pole or electrode. If the liberation of more oxygen at the North pole of an immersed magnet (and therefore relatively more hydrogen at the South pole) is substantiated, it may be construed that a similar flow, or magnetic current, is being maintained as with an electric dissociation of water.

It is early days yet, but not too early to wonder whether perhaps magnetic "currents" do flow through conductors, and, if so, whether they might be used equally with or in place of electric currents in machinery.

### The 50-Mile-Long Train

Here is a story of American wizardry at work in our own country. An army railway unit of the U.S. working in one of our vast assembly shops, is getting ready a total of rolling-stock which will be 50 miles long on Invasion Day.

## THE NATIONAL FOOD SUPPLY

So successful has been the Ministry of Food in controlling our food in time of war that it is being suggested that this control should be made permanent. A pamphlet, *The Nation's Food*, based on the work of Sir John Orr, the famous nutrition expert, proposes that a Commission appointed by a Minister of Food should become the central figure in this all-important national work.

The National Food Commission would have regard, of course, both to the produce of our own soil and its supplementation from overseas. It would take charge not only of foods which we can produce ourselves, but of the supplies of exotic foods which we necessarily can only obtain from warmer climates than ours and which play a large part in our dietary.

The conception of national food control places the feeding of our enormous population in the forefront of our supply problems. We are to imagine our National Food Commission in constant touch not only with British agriculture, and not alone with the great supplies multiplying in the Britains over the seas, but with the entire food supplies of the world. Its eyes would be upon the ends of the earth, but not in the foolish sense of taking them off the development of British agriculture.

What a Ministry of Food can do even in the difficulties attending a world war has been proved to us; how much more could it do when aided by the gifts of peace.

### Health by Order

One of the C.N. Old Boys has been in trouble. He is a young British soldier in North Africa of whose doings we have recorded incidents from time to time.

A little while ago he was declaring that at sunset he would be unrecognisable even by his mother, for, before going on guard, he has to daub himself with an anti-mosquito ointment, and wear gauntlets and a veil. On retiring to rest he is supposed to cover his bed with a mosquito-proof net, for it is the mosquito that brings the deadly malaria.

Quite well, he writes in his latest letter, but a "prisoner!" Fortunately his own countrymen are his gaolers and his punishment is slight—and for his own good. The offence he committed was to have holes in his mosquito net! The result, he writes, is that he is sentenced to four days' confinement to barracks—CB as the soldiers say.

That'll teach him.

### More and Bigger Planes

The chairman of the American Aircraft Production Board, Mr Charles E. Wilson, has made it known that in 1944 more than 100,000 planes will be produced in American factories.

The planes will be substantially larger than the types they supplant. The average airframe weight will be 10,000 lbs, whereas last year, when 85,946 planes were produced, the average airframe weight was 8630 lbs. The production programme calls for the increased output of heavy aircraft, such as Fortresses, super-Fortresses, and Liberators, but for fewer non-combat craft.



### Clubland Players

A scene from John Drinkwater's play *Abraham Lincoln* performed by members of Clubland at their famous Temple of Youth in Camberwell Road, London.

## THE QUEEN OF ROADS

Who was Appius Claudius Caecus? Men of the Fifth and Eighth Armies probably know the answer. All the way up to Rome they keep coming in contact with the Appian Way, either temporarily in touch with it or denying its use by the enemy, and they should know by this time who was the builder, and that its name commemorates him.

Censor and consul, Appius Claudius Caecus was a great figure in Roman life 22 centuries ago, and in 312 B.C. when Britain had only footpaths and cattle tracks, he built the first 132 miles—from Rome to Capua—of the road that was destined to become one of the most famous in the world. He never saw his masterpiece, for he was blind. The great highway was afterwards extended for 32 miles from Capua to Beneventum, and, later, by Hadrian and succeeding emperors for a further 202 miles, from Beneventum to Brindisi, and so became Rome's gateway to the East.

No other highway in the world has been so often referred to in

literature as the Appian Way, which Statius, the Latin poet, over 1800 years ago styled "the Queen of Roads," as well he might, seeing that it carried Rome's traffic safely, for the first time, 19 miles through the dreaded Pontine Marshes.

The latest great enterprise, the landing at Nettuno, the first inland rush brought our armies to positions from which they could command this historic highway, 12 miles distant from the scene of their disembarkation. We did not immediately need this historic road, but it was essential to prevent the Germans from availing themselves of its time-honoured facilities.

It is a great pagan path, with sacred associations. By this road Paul travelled to Rome. To one side of it where it enters the Imperial City are the earliest of the catacombs. There, in the gloom and seclusion of subterranean tunnels, the first Christians had their secret meeting-place, and, whether they met their end by martyrdom or closed their eyes in peace, there they found their resting-place.

### A Mimic Invasion in London

High up in a London building, with sirens sounding and "gun-fire" crashing through loud-speakers, a body of Dutch men and women rehearsed their invasion-tasks the other day.

There were 200 of them members of the Netherlands Civil and Military Commission, whose task it will be to take over the moment the Allies have secured a bridgehead on their native shores. They had to show how they would meet all kinds of problems, the uprising of their enslaved countrymen, the

difficulties of transport and food-supply, even the peril of a poisoned water-system. Radio Orange worked with field transmitters all through the night, giving not only emergency last-minute instructions, but also the "latest war news."

The test lasted 17 hours, and all came out of it well. Little except the actual devastation was left to the imagination, and when the great day comes these earnest and devoted workers will not be at a loss in the face of any emergency which may arise.

### FIFTEEN-YEAR PLAN FOR INDIA

A NUMBER of India's leading business men have devised a 15-year plan which they hope will be useful for Indian national development after the war. The plan has aims as bold as those which, in successive stages, have done so much to develop the resources of Soviet Russia. The Indian conception covers not only industry, but agriculture, transport, housing, education.

Lord Wavell recently directed attention to India's main needs, and these Indian industrialists fully share his opinions of what is necessary. Their report recom-

mends collective farming on an enormous scale, as in Russia. It holds that half of the houses in Indian towns, and a quarter of those in the country, should be pulled down and rebuilt during the next 15 years. The estimated cost would be £1875,000,000. It also recommends a strong move forward in Indian education, to raise it to the best European standard.

These Indian planners do not disguise their hope that their plan should be regarded as one for execution by a National Indian Government.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### TWO NAUGHTY RABBITS

I KNOW two rabbits with very bad habits; They nibble their nails and they bite their tails; And their mother and father would very much rather Have two other rabbits... with pleasanter habits.

### The Ass and the Dog

AN ass who saw how his master petted a dog desired to earn his master's caresses and become a favourite too.

"I must watch the dog carefully to find out why my master prefers his companionship to mine," said the ass.

So he watched the dog very closely.

"All that the dog does to please my master," said the

ass, "is to jump up at him and bark, or frolic around him and sit on his knees. If such a show of feeling pleases, why should I not please in the same way?"

Acting upon this decision, the very next time his master appeared the ass started to bray and kick up his heels, and tried to put his fore feet on his master's chest, as he had seen the dog do.

But the master, instead of being pleased, was annoyed at such conduct on the part of the ass, and rewarded the animal with a good beating.

Be content to play the part for which Nature has fitted you.

### PRAYER

STEP by step and hour by hour,  
Lead me by Thy Spirit's power;

Rid my mind of needless fears,  
Guide me as each day appears.  
Amen

### FEBRUARY BRINGS THE RAIN





## Colour in Our Lives

VISITORS to the Royal Academy recently have been able to enjoy a feast of colour, for the British Colour Council have staged an exhibition there to show the place of colour in everyday life, and its vital significance to industry.

Three cheers for the red, white, and blue—and the green, pink, and yellow! That is a natural expression after a visit to this exhibition, and it is well, for of course one of its primary objects is to make us all colour-conscious. Most of us are susceptible to the influence of colour, but fail to realise the big part it plays in our lives.

This exhibition sets out to show this big part it plays—in our dress, in our homes, in industry, in transport; and it shows us what control of colour can mean. What matters here is not where the Rainbow Ends, but the way the Rainbow Goes! It is a worthwhile experience to go through the drab, colourless courtyard of Burlington House and climb the stairs to where colour, in a thousand facets of beauty, is arranged for our education and delight.

In the first gallery we see how the skilful, harmonious blending of colours makes a home beautiful to live in—from the soft, pastel shades in a dining-room to the gay, laughing colours of a nursery. Next we see colour applied to everyday, ordinary things, its co-ordination with design in the movable features of a house—from fabrics to plastics.

Then comes a room of sheer delight, where colour and design for children have had their inspiration from Alice in Wonderland, and Alice Through the Looking Glass. Here is the

Mad Hatter as a doll, with the Ugly Duchess, the Hare, and the King and Queen of Hearts; here this immortal company is used in enchanting design for cotton frocks; and here are fabrics with colour names from Lewis Carroll's stories—Treetop green and Alice blue, Mushroom pink and Dormouse brown.

Other galleries show the scientific and artistic application of colour to civil aviation, to printing, and to dress (and there are countless shades here unknown to those who made Joseph's Coat). And finally we are taken Behind the Scenes. Here colour is traced to its original source by a spectrum of 12 colours from which all hues and colours can be prepared. Here we learn how all the colours of the rainbow are in coal-tar products from the depths of the mines. Here is displayed the British Colour Council's Dictionary of Colour Standards, showing the 220 shades most used in trade and given a name ensuring that all trades shall speak a common colour language: number one is white, and the gay, colourful progress continues with such shades as Larkspur blue and Flamingo pink, and comes to a dark end with jet black.

The British Colour Council is doing great work, and this exhibition, indicating the long chain of production from the dyemakers to the public, underlines its value to us all.

## A GIBRALTAR OF THE PACIFIC

WHEN General MacArthur assaults the tiny Pacific island of Truk it will not be taken easily, for it is the "Gibraltar" of the South Seas.

Situated in the Carolines, 700 miles from our present field of operations, Truk has been fortified with immense skill and determination for many years. Today it is one of the world's most powerful naval and air bases; and its capture would vastly simplify our entire campaign against Japan. By making Truk her far-flung base, Japan was enabled to strike swiftly at the American, Dutch, and British possessions in the western Pacific, while at the same time she struck from her homeland at Burma, Malaya, Sumatra and Java. But the distance from the Japanese mainland to Tojo's island outposts beyond New Guinea is immense.

It is as though a man had two powerful arms, a very short one and a very long one, and had used both to strike down two vigorous antagonists simultaneously, but without knocking them out. "Covering up" against the short arm, with a sure and sturdy shield, the victims of the assassin are now preparing to cut off the long arm at the wrist. When they do that the assassin can be crippled, and can in due course be knocked out.

So Lord Louis Mountbatten is watching MacArthur's strategy with interest. So is Tojo.

## The Valley Under a Cloud

Waterhouses is a little Staffordshire village beside the River Hamps, famous for its disappearing trick. Northward from the village the track of the old Leek and Manifold Valley Railway winds its way through eight miles of charming scenery. South of the village rises the quarry-scarred Caudon Low, where on a midsummer night long ago Mary Howitt saw a hundred fairies dance.

Fairies dance there still, perchance, for dreamers of dreams; but in any case this is still a charming corner of our English countryside, and we can understand therefore, the alarm of all who know and love it, at the threat of a project to establish a big cement works there.

So often when industry comes in Beauty flies out, and the prospect of seeing this lovely scenery smothered under clouds of dust and smoke is abhorrent to all who know it and look forward to seeing it as part of a great National Park. We can only hope that success will attend the protests of those doughty champions who seek to preserve this lovely corner of Staffordshire from desecration.

## The Mars Again

The giant 70-ton four-engined flying boat Mars which made a record flight in December has flown the 4700 miles from San Francisco to Hawaii and back in 27 hours 26 minutes flying time, at an average speed of over 171 m.p.h., beating the December flight by 10 m.p.h.

On the return flight the Mars carried 25 passengers and 20,500 lbs. of freight, and the captain of the aircraft said that it was the cheapest transport flight per pound carried ever made across the Pacific.

## Peru Has a New Port

THE progressive South American republic of Peru has a new port, Chimbote Bay, where within two years a pier jutting nearly two-thirds of a mile out into the Pacific will be completed, making one of the best natural harbours on the west coast of South America into one of the finest ports.

This wealthy sector of a wealthy land has already begun its career as a modern industrial centre. Just behind Chimbote there are big coal deposits which are now being developed, and coal-export began last autumn with a send-off of 20,000 tons. There are rich iron-ore fields in the district, and hitherto the ore was shipped abroad. Now, a smelting-plant is to be erected by the Government, so that the more valuable smelted iron may be marketed.

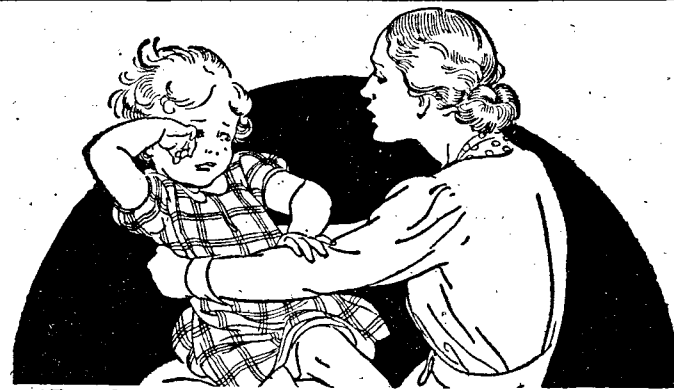
At the moment the U.S.A. takes all the iron it can get from Peru in whatever form it is available. But when the war is over the situation will change, and there will be competitive supplies and a possibly smaller demand. So the shrewd men who are now directing Peru's new fortunes hope to convert their iron into the steel rails which they now import, and develop their railway system.

Chimbote is but one symbol of the swift movement of progress in present-day Peru. The republic comes fourth, after Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia, in population among the ten sovereign States of the South American Continent, although in area it is only sixth, being

smaller than Bolivia and Ecuador. Its actual wealth is great, its potential wealth immense; and its energy unbounded. The first rubber tyre ever manufactured in Peru was exhibited with great ceremony last July, but that is only a portent of what may one day become a very prosperous rubber industry.

Situated on the north-west stretch of the coast, about 250 miles north-west of the capital city of Lima, Chimbote was quite insignificant until recently. But the war gave the little town of 1500 inhabitants its chance, and it has developed with particular rapidity during the past year, largely owing to the excellent working-class housing estate built by the Government. It is worth noting that of the 7½ million inhabitants of Peru, only one-third are of white stock, one-third being mixed white and Indian, and one-third Indian.

Peru is strongly pro-Ally, and has no use for Hitler and Tojo or any of their works. She does not forget the part played by that great Scots sailor Cochrane in her fight for independence from Spain in the early years of last century—a part for which this gallant liberator received little except wounds.



## Mother! Child's Best Laxative is 'California Syrup of Figs'

Children love the pleasant taste of 'California Syrup of Figs,' and gladly take it even when bilious, feverish, sick or constipated. This laxative regulates the tender little bowels easily and safely. It sweetens the stomach and moves the bowels without cramping or over-acting.

Millions of mothers depend upon this gentle, harmless laxative.

Tell your chemist you want 'California Syrup of Figs,' which has full directions for babies and children of all ages.

Obtainable everywhere at 1/4 and 2/6.

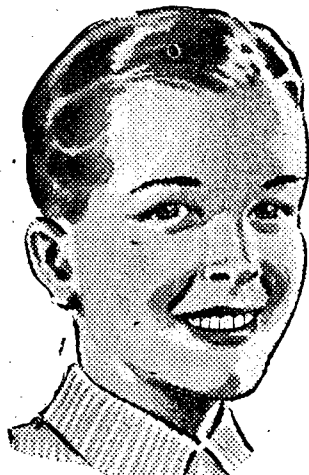
Hurrah!  
**BERMALINE BREAD**  
is worth going for

Good, pure, delicious food. A treat to eat—and easily digested.

Baked by Good Bakers everywhere



Enquiries to: MONTGOMERIE & CO. LTD. IBROX, GLASGOW



## TWICE on Sundays?

Bobby smartens himself up and tries to make up for week-day failings by giving his teeth a "double clean" on Sunday. But the practice is most unsound because teeth care must be regular. In the rush of our busy work-a-day week, we must avoid Bobby's error. To keep acid at bay you need to clean your teeth thoroughly, morning and night, with Phillips' Dental Magnesia. This toothpaste contains "Milk of Magnesia," recommended by dentists to combat acid in the mouth.

1/1 and 1/10

RETURN EMPTY TUBES TO THE CHEMIST.



THE ANTACID TOOTH PASTE

\* 'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia



### Quite Unnecessary

"HAVE you given your goldfish fresh water, Joan?"  
"No, Mummy, they haven't finished the water I gave them yesterday yet."

### How February Got Its Name

FEBRUARY is named after a Roman festival called Februa, which was held in honour of the god Lupercus or Februus. Februa was regarded by the Romans as a festival of spiritual purification, but they also made it an occasion for feasting.

### A Free Ride For Jacko



NOTHING annoys Father Jacko more than seeing Jacko up to his mischievous tricks in the garden. One morning as he was trundling his barrow down the path he felt his load of weeds suddenly become heavier. "Ah!" he thought. "That is young Jacko enjoying a free ride." So as soon as he arrived at the rubbish heap he tipped up the barrow and out shot Jacko looking very pained and bewildered. "That," said Father Jacko, laughing, "will perhaps teach you not to try any of your monkey tricks on me!"

### Surprises of the Atlas

THE Shetland Isles are farther north than parts of Greenland and Alaska.

St Johns, Newfoundland, is farther south than Paris.

Glasgow is farther north than Moscow.

Parts of Africa are farther north than the south coast of Spain.

Edinburgh is farther west than Bristol.

### The Struggle For Survival

THE average number of fishes in the sea is generally the same, yet one female fish may produce a million eggs, of which only one or two will live. A single microbe, if there were food enough, would multiply into millions in a few hours. Every kind of plant and animal, high or low, tends to multiply far too rapidly, and the struggle for life that goes on without ceasing among all creatures is a struggle for food, of which there is usually a much smaller supply than is needed.

### WILL YOU MAKE FRIENDS

with 12-year-old

#### MISHA FROM MOSCOW

crippled by a bomb which killed his family?

Misha and 350 others live in the

### PRAVDA HOME FOR CHILD WAR VICTIMS

adopted by the

#### ANGLO-SOVIET YOUTH FRIENDSHIP ALLIANCE

They need clothes, books, games, etc.

WHAT CAN YOU SPARE?

Details from:

ASYFA, 104, Wigmore, St., London, W.1.

# THE BRAN TUB

### AN EXCITING RIDE

THERE was an old woman of Clewer,  
Who was riding a bike when it threw her.  
A butcher came by,  
And said, "Missus, don't cry."  
And he fastened her on with a skewer.

### Riddles About Tea & Coffee

WHY should we go to rest directly after tea? *Because when it is gone night is nigh.*

When is coffee like the soil? *When it is ground.*

Why is coffee like an axe with a dull edge? *Because it must be ground before it is used.*

Why should a poor man drink coffee? *Because he has no property (proper tea).*

When is a teapot like a kitten? *When you're teasin' it (tea's in it).*

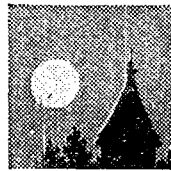
When has a man a right to scold his coffee? *When he has more than sufficient grounds.*

### How the Giraffe Got Its Name

GIRAFFE is a very good name for this long-necked African animal, for it can be traced back to an old Egyptian word-soraphe which means "long neck." The Arabs took that word and changed it to zaraf, then the Spaniards took the Arab word, spelling it giraffa, the French took the Spanish word altering the final a to e, and we took the French word without changing it at all.

### Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars, Saturn, and Uranus are in the south, and Jupiter is in the south-east. In the morning Venus is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9.



### FUN WITH FIGURES

Ask a friend to put down a row of figures, say six. Then leave room for six further rows of figures, draw a line at the bottom of the space, and fill in a row of figures, thus:

He puts down, say .. 146,287  
Leave space for six rows

You fill in this row .. 3,146,284

This total is obtained by subtracting 3 from his original number and putting the figure 3 in front, making seven instead of six figures. (In this case the last figure will be 4).

Now you ask him to fill in the second row under the first. You add the third row; he the fourth;

you the fifth; he the sixth; and you the seventh and last row. When you put down your figures in each case you make every figure in his row and your row total 9, then you will find that the whole sum adds up to the total you first put down. For example:

He puts down... 146,287  
He puts down... 389,425  
You add figures to total nine with those above 610,574  
He puts down... 246,135  
You make these total nine 753,864  
He puts down... 138,250  
You make these total nine 861,749

This is the total you had already put down .. 3,146,284

### The Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, February 9, to Tuesday, February 15.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 For the Youngest Listener—A Tale of McTosh, He Makes the Dinner, by Lavinia Derwent; followed by a concert by the Kirkintilloch Children's Choir. 5.55 Prayers.

THURSDAY, 5.20 A Nursery Sing Song, with Doris, Mabel, and Nan; followed by The Grandfather Clock, a Lancashire Fairy Story by K. T. McGarry, told by John Broadbent. 5.45 Letter from America.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Little Brown Tala and the Witch, a story for the younger ones, by May Wynne; followed by The Thirty-Nine Steps,

by John Buchan, adapted as a play by Winifred Carey—Part 2.

SATURDAY, 5.20 Hy-a Buddy! the story of a young American railway engine by Antonia Ridge, told by Philip Phillips; followed by songs by the Edmunds Octet; and Bird Islands—a visit to the Skerries, off the coast of Anglesey, by William Aspdon.

SUNDAY, 5.20 Matilda Goes to Hollywood, another story about Matilda Mouse; followed by Children of Many Lands in Verse and Music. 5.55 Prayers.

MONDAY, 5.20 Music for St Valentine's Day, by the BBC Scottish Orchestra. 5.45 Zoo Man.

TUESDAY, 5.30 Nobby Clark and the Lion, a play by Horton Giddy.

### NATURE NEWS

MARSH marigolds and the strawberry-leaved cinquefoil, which is really a member of the rose family, are coming into flower, and the small green inconspicuous blossoms of the yew tree begin to appear. The hoot of the tawny owl can be heard near woods and coppices, and the soft, appealing whistle of the sparrow-hawk to his mate is one of the first love calls of the year.

### ROOT IT OUT

By Peter Puck

It's queer and queer how savings grow,  
A shilling's a pound before you know;  
And if you're hoarding an angry thought  
It grows and grows till it can't be caught.  
Now a seed—tomorrow a crime:  
Root it out of your heart in time!

### A Very Long Journey

THE train was painfully slow; it stopped at all stations and in between many of them. An inspector came along and asked to see the tickets.

"But this boy can't travel for half fare," he said to a lady. "he's much too big."

"He may be now," was the reply, "but he was small enough when we started."

### Why He Had the Hump

GROANED a Camel who'd found an oasis,  
"To the desert this spot a disgrace is.  
All its herbage is dead,  
So I cannot be fed.  
And of water it doesn't show traces!"

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

FAST	CLUB
AFOOT	USE
COYEOMAN	
TAB	NAB
MANATEE	
ARUB	RAP
BATTLE	GO
LIE	ENTER
ERRS	DART

Can You Read This?

The season was backward.

What Am I?  
A stick

What Is the Time?  
A—9, B—6,  
C—4, D—8.



# Fitness Wins

PERFECT physical fitness, abundant energy and the will-to-win—these qualities you must possess if you are to be successful in sports and games.

Remember that the leading coaches and trainers insist on 'Ovaltine' as an essential part of the training diet for players and athletes in their charge. They know that there is nothing like 'Ovaltine' for building up physical fitness and stamina.

'Ovaltine' has also played an important part in many outstanding feats of endurance. In the last two Mount Everest Expeditions 'Ovaltine' was an essential part of the high-climbing rations. Explorers have taken it to the ends of the earth.

In everyday life, in your school work, the same fitness and vigour are just as valuable. That is why you should drink delicious 'Ovaltine' every day. It will keep you fit in body and mind and help you always to do your best.

'Ovaltine' is very easily prepared. If milk is not available, water can be used, as 'Ovaltine' itself contains milk. 'Ovaltine' is naturally sweet, so that there is no need to add sugar.

Drink Delicious

# Ovaltine

For Health, Strength and Vitality

